

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 11, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. POLK made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 400.]

*The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the petition of E. George Squier, praying to be allowed an outfit as chargé d'affaires to each of the governments of Guatemala, San Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Honduras, and also a balance of salary which he claims to be due, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

That having reviewed report No. 280, made at the second session of the Thirty-fifth Congress by this committee, upon the same petition, they have determined to adopt the same, and herewith submit a bill in accordance with its recommendations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, February 18, 1859.

*The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the memorial of E. George Squier, late chargé d'affaires of the United States to the republic of Guatemala, praying additional compensation for extraordinary services performed by him during his mission, have had the same under consideration, and now report:*

The memorial sets forth that, on the 2d of April, 1849, the memorialist was commissioned as chargé d'affaires of the United States to the republic of Guatemala, and also formally accredited to the republics of San Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Honduras, by separate letters to the ministers for foreign affairs of those governments. That the President also conferred upon him, in due form, full and separate powers to negotiate treaties with the governments of Guatemala, San Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Costa Rica. That with the first four of these republics he concluded important treaties, two of which were ratified by the Senate. That in carrying on correspondence and conducting negotiations with five different governments at the same time, he was compelled to employ two secretaries, for which no compensation was allowed him. That in collecting information with regard to the practicability of a ship canal between the

two oceans, through Nicaragua, in accordance with his instructions, he necessarily traversed the State in every direction, and spent considerable sums of money in procuring proper instruments, and many weeks of time. That in June, 1850, he returned to the United States, on leave of absence from the Secretary of State, and while here a new administration came into power, and he was superseded on the 13th of September following. That, upon the settlement of his accounts at the department, he was allowed a salary only to the time of his leaving Central America, together with the usual outfit of a chargé d'affaires.

In consideration of these facts, the memorialist asks that he may be allowed a sum equal to an outfit of a chargé d'affaires to each of the republics to which he was commissioned, and with which he opened relations; and also for the salary accruing between the 28th June, the date of his leave, and the 13th of September, the date of his recall; and, in support of his claim, refers to allowances heretofore made in similar cases, viz: to Mr. Murray, in 1800; Mr. Madison, in 1804; Mr. Pinckney, in 1806; Messrs. Schenck and Pendleton, in 1852; and Mr. Kerr, in 1854.

It further appears that the Secretary of State, in a letter addressed to the Hon. D. E. Sickles, of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, dated April 12, 1858, in answer to a call for information on the subject, fully sustains the statements of the memorial in regard to the "value and importance of the services rendered by the memorialist at a most interesting juncture of our relations in that quarter, and especially in connection with the negotiations which were going on here at the same time with Great Britain;" and, after speaking of the energy and zeal which he had exhibited in the public service as being such as justly to entitle the memorialist to the leave of absence asked for, and granted by the department, the Secretary adds: "The precedents referred to in the memorial of Mr. Squier are pertinent to his application. The 'letters of credence' and 'full powers,' bestowed upon the functionaries named, were documents of precisely the same character as those hereinbefore mentioned as furnished to Mr. Squier."

In the various precedents cited by the memorialist, and referred to by the Secretary, there may have been peculiar circumstances which, in the judgment of Congress, justified their allowance. But, in the opinion of the committee, as a general rule, the purpose and object for which outfits are allowed to our diplomatic representatives is mainly to furnish the means for fitting up necessary establishments, suited to their grade, at the courts to which they are accredited, without having to draw upon either their salaries or private resources for that purpose. In this case it does not appear that any such establishments were necessarily fitted up. On the contrary, the very brief period (less than a year) during which the memorialist remained in Central America renders it more than probable that none such were required, except, perhaps, at the court where he chiefly resided whilst in that country.

In carrying out this view, the committee believe that a reasonable allowance should be made to cover the expenses of the memorialist in going from one court to another, together with clerk hire and other

charges incident to the negotiation of the several treaties concluded by him with the republics of Central America. And in the absence of any certain data from which to ascertain the amount of such expenses, the committee regard the allowance of one additional outfit of four thousand five hundred dollars as amply sufficient for that purpose, and recommend it accordingly.

With reference to the claim for nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars for the balance of salary, alleged to be due for the interval between the date of his departure from Central America, (28th June, 1850,) to the time of his recall, (13th September, 1850,) the committee are of opinion that the decision of this question rested properly with the department. If justified by law and usage in such cases, it would doubtless have been allowed in the settlement of his accounts, unless excluded by special considerations. Unadvised of the peculiar circumstances which may have caused the rejection of this item by the proper accounting officers in the settlement heretofore made, the committee are not disposed to disturb that settlement. They, therefore, report a bill in accordance with these views, and recommend its passage.

